



DECISION MEMO

TO REISSUE AND ADMINISTRATIVELY COMBINE PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY MASTER PERMITS AND EASEMENTS ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS USDA FOREST SERVICE

AFFECTED FORESTS

ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST

ALPINE, AMADOR, ELDORADO AND PLACER COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST (INCLUDING LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK)

BUTTE, LASSEN, SHASTA, TEHAMA, PLUMAS, AND SISKIYOU COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

KERN, MONTEREY, SAN LUIS OBISPO, AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST

BUTTE, COLUSA, GLENN, LAKE, MENDOCINO, TEHAMA, AND TRINITY COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

BUTTE, PLUMAS, SIERRA, AND YUBA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST (INCLUDING GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT)

FRESNO AND TULARE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST

SHASTA, TRINITY, AND SISKIYOU COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

FRESNO, MADERA, AND MARIPOSA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST

HUMBOLDT, SISKIYOU, AND TRINITY COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

ALPINE, AMADOR, CALAVERAS, MARIPOSA, AND TUOULUMNE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

NEVADA, PLACER, SIERRA, AND YUBA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA





BACKGROUND

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PGE), referred to as the Utility, operates and maintains electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure and associated facilities across National Forest System (NFS) lands throughout California (see Figures 1-11, Utility Maps and Authorizations for each Forest). These facilities are authorized via special use permits, easements, statutory rights, and other forms of valid existing rights and authorizations. The Eldorado, Lassen, Los Padres, Mendocino, Plumas, Sequoia, Shasta-Trinity, Sierra, Six Rivers, Stanislaus, and Tahoe National Forest currently administer approximately 421 authorizations, representing approximately 8,000 acres of NFS lands.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this project is to continue authorizing PGE's current occupancy and use of National Forest System lands and to approve a new Operation and Maintenance Plan (OMP) for continuous and ongoing maintenance of facilities. This action will consolidate and administratively combine existing authorizations into master permits and easements (MPEs), while continuing to manage facilities in a manner consistent with each National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The project is needed in part because existing authorizations for the powerlines have exceeded their expiration dates and new, updated authorizations are needed for continued use and occupancy of NFS lands. The authorizations would make needed updates to various terms and conditions to meet current land and resource management standards, facilitate more efficient and timely electric system operations and maintenance activities, and reduce the existing complexity and administrative burden by consolidating numerous authorizations into MPEs.

Continuing to maintain the grid in a safe and reliable manner while protecting the environment to the fullest extent practical is also a primary objective of this project. The Utility needs to maintain the electric system in a safe and reliable manner in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, including the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) requirements and regulations. The Utility will complete these activities while continually avoiding effects to plants, animals, aquatic features, endangered and sensitive species habitats, areas of resource concern, and any other area of potential affect. The likelihood of power outages and wildfires caused by downed lines when hazard trees strike them or when degraded power poles fail is reduced when maintenance activities are completed in a timely and sound manner.

This objective will be achieved by implementing a standardized OMP across all affected Forests. Although this action does not approve or introduce any new maintenance activities, the OMP is necessary to establish standard operating procedures and protocols for conducting routine maintenance activities across the entire service area. This will ensure consistency in reviewing and approving work across all affected National Forests. The OMP will also ensure utility facilities are continually maintained in compliance, while managing and mitigating potential effects.





PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, proposes to continue authorizing the use and occupancy of NFS land to PGE for existing electric system facilities and infrastructure by:

- 1. Issuing new Master Permits and Easements on each affected Forest
 - a. The authorizations are proposed for existing facilities within existing alignments.
- 2. Approving the Master OMP for the entire Pacific Southwest Region
 - a. The Master OMP will codify standard operating procedures, resource protection measures, and best management practices for all operations and maintenance activities.

This action does not authorize any changes to facilities, alignments, or to the capacity of the electric grid. Facilities considered in this analysis have been previously authorized with various special use permits, easements, or statutory rights and are eligible for continuance.

DECISION

As Regional Forester, I have decided to implement the project as proposed, by:

- (1) Continuing to authorize PGE facilities by issuing new authorizations by consolidating and administratively combining all of the current authorizations into separate MPEs on each Forest; and
- (2) Implementing Routine Operation and Maintenance as described in the OMP across the entire service area for the Utility within the Pacific Southwest Region:





Table 1. Summary of Routine Operation and Maintenance

Patrols, Inspections, and Minor Repairs	Routine Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	Emergencies
Overview Overview Routine patrols and inspections required for either compliance and/or operations. These activities typically occur at scheduled intervals or as needed and are conducted from authorized roads, on foot, or by helicopter. The Utility may inspect lines as often as deemed necessary. Other regular maintenance activities include minor repairs to the facilities (e.g., poles, fiber optic line, etc.), vegetation management (e.g., pole brushing, line clearing, etc.) in the utility corridor, and road maintenance activities. Class I activities are typically carried out by transmission and distribution line maintenance and vegetation management personnel. Activities may involve disturbance of the ground surface and vegetation within the Utility's rights-of-way and in previously disturbed areas.	Overview Routine O&M activities of existing facilities, including replacing existing poles and towers, felling hazard trees, replacing or pulling new conductors, heavy road maintenance and completing minor underground repairs. Activities may involve disturbance of the ground surface and vegetation within the Utility's rights-of-way.	Overview Emergency work is to address immediate threats to public safety, electric reliability, or property damage. Emergency situations generally result from high winds, storms, wildfires, other natural disasters (e.g., slumps, slides, surface fault ruptures, erosion, major subsidence, earthquakes and floods), and other accidents that damage the transmission and distribution lines. Emergency repairs may include replacement of downed poles or towers, reconductoring segments of line, or pulling new line. An emergency is also considered in instances where a system failure "breakdown" has occurred, as a result of multiple towers, poles, and conductors being down. Repairing the damage requires immediate attention.

The project will meet its purpose and need by issuing new MPEs and creating a consistent and standardized processes for reviewing and conducting operation and maintenance activities on the Forests in compliance with laws, regulations, and policies.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement and is prepared as a categorical exclusion, as outlined in the Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 32.2(15):

Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized





activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization (36 Code of Federal Regulations 220.6[e][15]).

A categorical exclusion is appropriate as (1) the only changes are administrative; (2) there are no changes to the scope or intensity of the authorized activities; and (3) the Utility is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of its current authorizations.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I find that no extraordinary circumstances would warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist, and these are summarized below:

Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species or Designated Critical Habitat, Species Proposed for Federal Listing or Proposed Critical Habitat, or Forest Service Sensitive Species

The **Eldorado National Forest** is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of California Red-legged Frog, Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog, Yosemite toad, Lahontan cutthroat, Layne's butterweed, and other special status species.

The Lassen National Forest is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of Western yellow-billed cuckoo, Northern spotted owl, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, gray wolf, Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog, Slender Orcutt Grass, Green's tuctoria, and other special-status species.

The Los Padres National Forest is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, Smith's blue butterfly, Kern primrose sphinx moth, Arroyo toad, California Red-legged Frog, marbled murrelet, Western snowy plover, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Least Bell's vireo, California condor, Purple Amole, Chorro Creek bog thistle, Kern mallow, and other special-status species.

The **Mendocino National Forest** is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of marbled murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and other special-status species.

The **Plumas National Forest** is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of California Red-legged Frog, Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog, Lahontan cutthroat trout, slender orcutt grass, and other special-status species.





The Sequoia National Forest is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of mountain yellow-legged frog-northern DPS, Western snowy plover, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, Southwestern willow flycatcher, California condor, Least Bell's vireo, Springville clarkia, Keck's checker-mallow, and other special-status species.

The **Shasta-Trinity National Forest** is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of Marbled murrelet, Northern spotted owl, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, gray wolf, slender orcutt grass and other special-status species.

The Sierra National Forest is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of California tiger salamander-Central California DPS, California red-legged frog, Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Mountain yellow-legged frog-northern DPS, , Southwestern willow flycatcher, , California condor, San Joaquin kit fox, Keck's checker-mallow, and other special-status species.

The Six Rivers National Forest is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, gray wolf, and other special-status species.

The Stanislaus National Forest is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, California red-legged frog, Sierra Nevada red fox-Sierra Nevada DPS, and other special-status species.

The **Tahoe National Forest** is home to federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species. It also includes designated critical habitat for federally listed species. Within and/or near the Utility corridors are occurrences of Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and other special-status species.

The project is not expected to adversely affect these species. Further, the Plan requires species specific avoidance and mitigation measures consulted on and approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS).

A biological assessment was prepared and submitted to FWS for the proposed action. The BA evaluated the potential effects on special-status species and their habitats in the Forest. FWS submitted a letter of concurrence on December 21, 2018, with a determination of May Affect but Not Likely to Adversely Affect federally listed species or designated critical habitat.





A biological evaluation also was completed for this project to evaluate Forest Service sensitive species and their habitats. The Forest Service determined the measures outlined in the biological evaluation are appropriate to protect forest sensitive species.

A biological assessment for anadromous fish was also completed for this project with a determination of *No Effect*.

Floodplains, Wetlands, or Municipal Watersheds

All O&M activities will be performed using best management practices (BMPs), which will maintain or improve the resource conditions within floodplains, wetlands, and municipal watersheds. Therefore, I find that no extraordinary circumstances are related to reissuance of current, expired, or expiring authorizations into MPEs.

The BMPs outlined in the Plan adhere to the *National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands* (U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 2012).

Congressionally Designated Areas

Utility facilities are located within the following Wilderness Areas. No changes are proposed to the scope or scale of the facilities or O&M activities; therefore, there will be no change in condition. No congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas, will be adversely affected by issuance of the new MPEs.

Eldorado - No Utility facilities are located in the Desolation and Mokelumne Wilderness Areas. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail crosses the Forest, however no national recreation areas are affected by utility facilities.

Lassen - No Utility facilities are located in the Ishi, Lassen Thousand Lakes, or Caribou wilderness areas, although Utility facilities is located within Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Los Padres - Facilities are located within the Garcia, Ventana, and Santa Lucia Wilderness Areas. No utility facilities are located within the limits of a wild and scenic river.

Mendocino - No Utility facilities are located in the Snow Mountain Wilderness, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, Yuki Wilderness, or Sanhedrin Wilderness Areas. No utility facilities adjacent to the wild and scenic Black Butte or Eel Rivers.

Plumas - No Utility facilities are located in the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area and Feather Falls Recreation Area. Utility facilities are located near the limits of the Wild and Scenic Feather (Middle Fork) River.

Sequoia - No Utility facilities are located in the Golden Trout, South Sierra, or Domeland Wildernesses. Utility facilities are located within the limits of the Wild and Scenic Kern River.

Shasta-Trinity - No Utility facilities are located in the Castle Crags, Chanchelulla, Mount Shasta, Trinity Alps and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Areas. No wilderness study areas





are currently proposed in the Forest. Utility facilities are located traversing the Wiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area and along the Wild and Scenic Trinity River.

Sierra - No Utility facilities are located in the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, Monarch, or Kaiser Wilderness Areas. Utility facilities are located along the Wild and Scenic Merced River.

Six Rivers - No utility facilities are located in the Marble Mountain, Mount Lasson, North Fork, Siskiyou, Trinity Alps, or Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness Areas. No wilderness study areas are currently proposed in the Forest. In addition, no Utility facilities are located traversing the Smith River National Recreation Area or along the wild and scenic Eel, Klamath, or Smith Rivers. Utility facilities are along the Wild and Scenic Trinity River.

Stanislaus - No Utility facilities are located in the Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant, or Mokelumne Wilderness Areas. No wilderness study areas are currently proposed in the Forest. In addition, no Utility facilities are located along the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River. Utility facilities are located along the Wind and Scenic Merced River.

Tahoe - No Utility facilities are located in the Granite Chief Wilderness Area. In addition, no Utility facilities are located along the Wild and Scenic American River (North Fork).

The proposed action does not include any changes to the scope or scale of the facilities or O&M activities throughout the service territory; therefore, there will be no change in condition and the proposed action will not adversely affect the current visual quality, Wilderness Characteristics, or Wild and Scenic River Characteristics.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

Activities within Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) will be limited to using and maintaining roadways that were established and in use prior to the Roadless Rule being finalized. Access within the IRAs will not be expanded excepting temporary emergency access that will be rehabilitated once the emergency is abated.

The following IRAs were considered as part of this analysis due to the existence of Utility infrastructure within them:

Eldorado - Dardanelles IRA.

Lassen - Mayfield, points within an unnamed IRA, and Ishi, IRAs

Los Padres - Antimony, Black Mountain, Condor Point, Cuyama, Dry Lakes, Fox Mountain, Lpoor Canyon, Malduce Buckhorn, Nordoff, Quatal, Sawmill-Badlands, Sespe-Frazier, Tepusquet Peak, Tequepis, Big Rocks, La Panza, Los Machos Hills, White Ledge IRAs

Mendocino - Snow Mountain IRA

Plumas - Chips Creek, Bucks Lake, and Grizzly Peak IRA





Sequoia - Oat Mountain IRA

Shasta-Trinity - Cow Creek, Dog Creek, Little French Creek, South Fork, and Underwood IRAs

Sierra - Devil Gulch, Kings River, Ferguson Ridge, Trumbull Peak, and Sycamore Springs IRAs

Six Rivers - Orleans Mountain IRA

Stanislaus - Raymond Peak and Waterhouse IRAs

Tahoe - No Utility facilities are located within the West Yuba, East Yuba, Middle Yuba, Grouse Lakes, Bald Mountain, Castle Peak, North Fork American River, Middle Fork American River, or Granite Chief IRAs

Research Natural Areas and Areas of Special Interest

Utility facilities are located within the following Research Natural Areas (RNA). No changes are proposed to the scope or scale of the facilities or O&M activities; therefore, there will be no change in condition. Thus, the proposed action will not adversely affect Research Natural Areas.

The following RNAs were considered as part of this analysis due to the existence of Utility infrastructure within them:

Eldorado - No utility facilities are located within the Peavine Point, Snow Canyon and Station Creek Research Natural Areas.

Lassen - No utility facilities are located within the Cub Creek Research Natural Area.

Los Padres - No utility facilities are located within the Cone Peak Gradient, La Panza Manchesna Mountain, and Sawmill Mountain Research Natural Areas. PG&E facilities are adjacent to the ITC Camp San Luis Obispo Research Natural Area.

Mendocino – No utility facilities are located within the Doll Basin, Frenzel Creek, Hale Ridge, or Wilder Ridge Research Natural Areas.

Plumas - No utility facilities are located within the Mount Pleasant and Mud Lake Research Natural Areas.

Sequoia - Utility facilities are located within the Long Canyon Research Natural Area but not within Moses Mountain, South Mountaineer Creek, or Church Dome RNAs.

Shasta-Trinity - No utility facilities are located within the Devil's Rock Hosselkus, Manzanita Creek, Mount Eddy, Preacher Meadows, Red Butte-Re Fir Ridge, and Shasta Mudflow Research Natural Areas.





Sierra - Utility facilities are located within the San Joaquin Experimental Range Research Area and Teakettle Research Area but not within the Nelder Grove Research Area nor are they within the Backbone Creek or Bishop Creek Ponderosa Pine RNAs, or Carpenteria Botanical Area

Six Rivers - No Utility facilities are located within the Adorni Research Natural Area.

Stanislaus - No Utility facilities are located within the Grizzly Mountain Bell Meadow, or Bourland Meadow (William B. Critchfield) Research Natural Areas.

Tahoe - No Utility facilities are located within the Babbit Peak, Sugar Pine Point, Lyon Peak/Needle Lake, Research Natural Areas or the Onion Creek and Sagehen Research/Educational Areas.

American Indians and Alaska Native Religious or Cultural Sites

The continued authorization of Utility infrastructure will not adversely affect American Indian religious or cultural sites, which will continue to be protected through a detailed review and screening process for O&M activities that is consistent with the Region 5 Programmatic Agreement (2018). The Utility and Forest will rely on a detailed cultural resource evaluation and protection process as part of O&M activities (Appendix E of the Plan). Appendix E includes details on how work locations will be reviewed and authorized, including how cultural resources will be surveyed for, avoided, and protected.

Archaeological Sites or Historic Properties or Areas

The continued authorization of Utility infrastructure will not adversely affect archaeological sites, historic properties, or sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places; these sites will continue to be protected through a detailed review and screening process for O&M activities that is consistent with the Region 5 Programmatic Agreement (2018). The Utility and Forest will rely on a detailed cultural resource evaluation and protection process as part of O&M activities (Appendix E of the Plan). Appendix E includes details on how work locations will be reviewed and authorized, including how cultural resources will be surveyed for, avoided, and protected.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The purpose and need of the proposed action was generally scoped on all Forests with PGE facilities in March, 2018 via public scoping letters and public news releases sent to interested officials, agencies, state and local governments, tribes, and the public. The proposed action also was listed on the Schedule of Proposed Actions for each Forest, Second Quarter, 2018. The public scoping notice also was listed on the Public Web Page. The public scoping period generally ended in June, 2018. No comments were received that identified issues resulting in the need to create or evaluate an alternative to the proposed action.





FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

I have determined that the decision is consistent with the standards and guidelines of the:

Eldorado National Forest Land Management Plan (1989)

Lassen National Forest Land Management Plan (1993)

Los Padres National Forest Land Management Plan (2006)

Mendocino National Forest Land Management Plan (1995)

Plumas National Forest Land Management Plan (1998)

Sequoia National Forest Land Management Plan (1988)

Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land Management Plan (1995)

Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan (1991)

Six Rivers National Forest Land Management Plan (1995)

Stanislaus National Forest Land Management Plan (1991)

Tahoe National Forest Land Management Plan (1990)

In addition, the decision is also consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Forest Management Act, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is not subject to administrative appeal under 36 Code of Federal Regulations 214.4. The project record, including final supporting documentation, specialist reports, appendices, figures, and attachments, are available for review upon request.

CONTACT

Records of this environmental analysis are available for public review at the Forest Supervisor's Office of the affected Forest within the service territory for PG&E. For additional information, please contact:

- Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado/
- Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, CA 96130
 - https://www.fs.usda.gov/lassen/
- Los Padres National Forest, 6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150, Goleta, CA 93117
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf
- Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA 95988
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/mendocino/





- Plumas National Forest, 23 Mohawk Highway/P.O. Box 7, Blairsden, CA 96103
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/plumas
- Sequoia National Forest, 1839 South Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia/
- Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf/
- Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611
 - o http://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra/
- Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/srnf/
- Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370
 - https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus/
- Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959
 - o https://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe/

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This project may be implemented immediately upon signing of the decision.

SIGNATURE

RANDY MOORE

Regional Forester

Pacific Southwest Region

2/15/19 Date

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





















